

## Overhauling the Books.

A strong argument for change was found during the late campaign in the desirability of overhauling the Government books and ascertaining what they really show as to the administration of affairs for the past quarter of a century.

The impression has long prevailed that a thorough examination of these volumes would disclose far more in the way of extravagance, maladministration and corruption than was fully realized by even the severest critics of the Republican machine. This impression was a perfectly natural one. It resulted almost inevitably from the fact that the Government was being administered year after year and term after term, by a party representing at no time more than a bare majority of the people, and during most of the time a minority. Such facts as came to light were known to exist. Frauds were known to have been perpetrated in the Post-office Department, the Navy Department and elsewhere. These frauds were disclosed by accident, not by the good will of the party in power, and instead of punishing the perpetrators the Administration seemed chiefly anxious to let them escape with as little noise as possible. What more natural than that the people should conclude that the disclosed frauds and shortcomings were the exception and not the rule, and that the books which were concealed? What more natural than that a popular conviction that a thorough overhauling of the books would furnish companions innumerable for the Howgates and Bradys and Dorseys who were so fortunate enough to be found out? And what more natural, under the circumstances, than the Democratic appeal to the people based upon the necessity of turning the books over to a party which could afford to open them and would open them?

The supporters of the machine sneered at the argument, and declared there was nothing in the books that needed overhauling. They pointed "with pride" as they said, to the closeness with which collections of Government revenue had been made, and professed to regard the book-keeping of the Administration as unimpeachable, though it made no account of the millions stolen by the Star-route thieves or by the rascals in other departments. But the sneer of the sneer the people persisted in enforcing their demand. They have hurled the Republican machine from power; and in doing so they have been actuated quite as much by their desire to examine the books as by any other motive.

Already there is valuable evidence that they did wisely. Already the trembling rascals in power are making efforts to conceal what the books show and to falsify their preparation to prevent the dreaded and inevitable examination. The tools of the Washington "ring" begin the ball by seeking to destroy the evidence of their connection with that "ring," their indebtedness to it for their appointment and the inference or evidence that they have used—or abused—their positions to pay off that indebtedness.

There will be a good many such efforts between now and the 4th of March next, and a strict watch will have to be kept on all the departments to prevent the destruction or mutilation of the evidence of misgovernment. One of the first efforts, probably, will be directed to the destruction of the "secret service" roll, upon which so many are borne who do absolutely nothing to prevent the robbery paid them by the Government, but put in their entire time in the service of some politician or office-seeker. All such efforts, however, be futile. It is too late. Exposure can only be avoided by some such device as that which Harrington adopted in procuring his safe to be robbed. And the resort to devices like that, even when they prove successful, is quite as strong evidence of guilt as anything that could be disclosed by the testimony destroyed.—*Det. Free Press.*

## Providence in American Politics.

Now that the election of Governor Cleveland is conceded and there can be no possible doubt of it, the Republican press is saying all the good things of him that it possibly can, and is thereby exhibiting the good nature, the common sense and the patriotism that belong by right to American citizenship.

The good things do not amount to much. The utterances are good, but because there is really a lack of material upon which to found a larger one. Were Bayard or Thurman the President elect far more would be said for them. A man who has been a National man less than three years has a rather attenuated record upon which to base great expectations. To go from a Mayorality to the Presidency without a record, means now that one looks back at it, like a romance from Jules Verne. It shows that, as Mr. Greeley once remarked, fame is in some measure an accident, and that politics and candidates are to a large extent creatures of chance, chance opportunities, and accidents. But the people do not make mistakes. There is nothing they value so much as honesty, and they are more apt to accept it when it comes without display. No Presidential candidate was so little advertised as Mr. Lincoln. He is at the most critical period of our history he made perhaps the best President we ever had. The little that is known of Governor Cleveland is good. He was a thoroughly honest Mayor, and the rings of Buffalo were afraid of him. He has been a thoroughly honest Governor. His sturdy common sense, his legal ability, his evident desire to do the best thing possible for the people whom he serves, have been conspicuous in his every official act. He is not brilliant—to the superficial observer he is commonplace. But in the eyes of the people his solid value has shown out of his unpretentious surroundings with a steady and never wavering light. He is not shrewd as a politician except as honesty is undeniably shrewd. He is not given to bargaining or diplomacy. He is a simple, honest man after the manner of Mr. Lincoln, and the political brass band would naturally pass him by sooner than almost any other man. His earnestness is innocent of gold. His walk and speech are unadorned, and his appearance before the world is that of an unpretentious, unambitious, unexpectant citizen. And yet the people have made him President and are confident in doing so they have made a good thing of it. It is characteristic of them and they never yet made a serious mistake.

It was urged by a speaker early in the campaign, with the cases of Washington and Lincoln especially in view, that Providence directed these things, and that the people were unconsciously the agents of Providence. It is not an unreasonable proposition. How happens it that so many modest and unpretentious, but worthy, men find themselves

lifted into the public view as the result of crises or ordinary circumstance, while the many with three times their chance for fame and every opportunity to achieve it are thrust out of sight as a result of things that appear to be of trivial importance? The power that notes the sparrow's fall is not too large for governments, and the man for every crisis of our history has apparently appeared at his appointed hour, and generally from the unnoticed rank and place. There is a great political and military Nazareth, and thus far it has never failed. Whether President Cleveland comes from it is yet to be demonstrated. There is a solid satisfaction as a result of the election, from one end of the country to the other, which speaks the utmost faith and confidence in the coming Administration.—*N. Y. Graphic.*

## Blaine and His Political Revenges.

If half what is rumored of Blaine's determination to seek revenge for his defeat on sundry and diverse individuals be true he made of weaker timber than we credited him with. "Life is too short for political revenges," and the man who devotes himself to them generally finds that he is engaged in an exhausting and fruitless business. Occasionally it falls to the lot of a man to enjoy the confounding of his enemies, but it is rarely the result of his own acts. But if Blaine adopts the policy of revenge in his political career, he will be one of the prominent individuals connected with his defeat are so numerous as to need alphabetical arrangement in order to be remembered. The easiest way for him to get even is to turn all in his book. By a modification of the original design he can embrace the period of the late campaign, and on this he can become as analytical, satirical and prophetic as he pleases to. He can "bottle them up" in epigrams, after the manner of George Francis Train, a whimsical candidate for the Presidency. This scheme of revenge he will find much more satisfactory than attempting to bring political ruin on their head by plots and intrigues. Besides, it will leave his political capital in a better condition for the coming campaign of 1888. If he desires to pursue the wisest course of all he will abandon the revenge programme and also the spirit of his last speech. A man with a grievance is never as attractive, and equally unpleasant to his associates, as one who advances himself politically by stirring up old feuds. Blaine's reputation for magnanimity arose from his jovial manners and good humor, and should he allow himself to become soured and disgraced by his personal animosities, he rapidly declines. He has made "the effort of his life" and has failed, and failure itself will lose him many friends. He had better be careful of those that remain if he still entertains ambitious projects. He naturally feels some of his reverse, but as the blame must rest upon his own record and the judgment thereon of the American people, he had better simulate virtue even if he have it not.—*St. Louis Republican.*

## A Dangerous Demagogue.

The country is to be congratulated that Blaine was repudiated on the 4th day of November. To round up the inherent dangerous demagoguery of his character, it was fit that he make the Augusta speech. He built better than he knew. Will our readers please compare the following extracts—one taken from that speech and one from his letter of acceptance:

[From Letter of Ac. (From Augusta, Me.)]  
The elements which the eleven States separated themselves from the North and South are fast disintegrating, and by appearing, producing the census of 1880, have yielded and are yielding to the popular will, while a growth and 5,000,000 of the Southern and colored population at Northern heart alike, most to a man desire a union and extension of the Union, and are to-day more united and by violence marked than at any time in our history. The elements which the eleven States separated themselves from the North and South are fast disintegrating, and by appearing, producing the census of 1880, have yielded and are yielding to the popular will, while a growth and 5,000,000 of the Southern and colored population at Northern heart alike, most to a man desire a union and extension of the Union, and are to-day more united and by violence marked than at any time in our history.

As the New York World says, in a reference to this matter, the explanation is that when Mr. Blaine wrote his letter of acceptance he hoped and expected to carry at least five Southern States, and he was disappointed. In his speech he was the disappointed and defeated candidate who had failed to carry a single Southern State and who had been rejected by four of the Northern States. The instincts of the base, rabid, treasonable politician, as revealed in the extracts quoted.—*Indiana State Sentinel.*

## "The Skin of the Teeth."

The Republican organs are finding consolation in the assertion that the Democrats were only successful in the election of Cleveland "by the skin of their teeth."

This saying has grown out of the smallness of the Democratic plurality in this State. A little over a thousand votes is certainly a narrow margin in a poll of about one million and a quarter. But it must be remembered that Garfield carried New York in 1880 by a little more than 21,000, so that the Democratic gain was actually over 22,000, without calculating the increased vote.

The truth is that the Republican candidate only secured a majority by the "skin of the teeth." He really lost in Michigan, where Garfield got nearly 54,000 majority, Blaine managed to squeak through with less than 3,000. In Iowa, instead of 78,000, which was Garfield's majority, Blaine got a majority of 18,500. He came within an ace of losing Wisconsin. In Massachusetts Butler's fraud alone saved him. If he had not escaped defeat in these States by a "scratch" Mr. Blaine would have been left with only fourteen States at his back.

Of course, in such an event Blaine would have been just as indignant as he now is about the injustice inflicted on Northern States by allowing Southern States to vote as they please in a Presidential election. But really the "skin of the teeth" plea applies to the Republicans as well as to the Democrats, in regard to the footings of the recent election. Blaine suffered defeat. A little more would have been annihilated.—*N. Y. World.*

## FOR SERVICES RENDERED.

Remarkable HUI Wai-ka Young Physician.

Tendered a Fair Patient's Father.

A romantic little story reached the ears of a reporter for the *Inter-Ocean* yesterday. It touches on sickness, pills and love. A certain charming young lady living in one of the southern suburbs was taken seriously ill a few weeks ago. Her parents, who are quite wealthy, employed the best medical talent obtainable, but the worthy disciples of medicine who examined her pronounced her case to be incurable, and said that she was beyond human aid. The parents were in despair. By some accident the father heard of a young doctor who had but very recently located in the village, and whose list of patients was not at all large, but who had ever given satisfaction when called upon. He was asked to see the sick girl. He called, looked at the patient steadily, then turned to the anxious parents and said, firmly and decisively:

"I can save your daughter!"

"Do you think so?" was the excited query.

"I know so," was the positive answer.

"See my daughter, and name your price for your services," exclaimed the loving father.

"Then I must have entire charge of the case," said the young doctor.

As the other doctors had given no encouragement whatever for her recovery the case was readily placed in the young physician's hands. He went to work, patiently, earnestly; took entire charge of his fair patient; watched over her day and night. In a week she began to improve. A few weeks found her out of danger; in three weeks she could sit up, and at the end of four weeks she was well and could take long drives with her devoted doctor. He had, indeed, redeemed his pledge—he had saved his charge.

One day, after the complete recovery of the young lady was positively assured, the father called the young doctor into his library. Taking him by the hand, he said: "Young man, you have saved my daughter. I told you that if you would save her, I would compensate you at whatever price you chose to fix your services. I am now ready to carry out my part of the agreement, as you have so nobly done your work."

"Do you really wish to pay me my own price?" asked the young doctor, anxiously.

"Indeed, I do, sir."

"Then I ask you to give your daughter to me in marriage," was the unexpected request.

The old gentleman was naturally a little astonished at the nature of the answer. He hesitated a moment, then touched a bell. A servant answered.

"Tell Hattie to step here," was the command.

In a minute the daughter entered the room. The father and the young doctor stood facing one another.

"Hattie," said the old gentleman, "do you feel that you have fully recovered?"

"I am as well as ever, father."

"Do you imagine that your doctor wishes in compensation for his services in saving your life?" was the sternly put question.

"No," said the girl, anxiously, "but I am sure he deserves anything reasonable."

"But I consider his charge extortionate," was the emphatic rejoinder.

"What is it, father? I feel sure that Doctor ——— would not be unreasonable."

"Not unreasonable! Why, Hattie, he asks that I consent to his making you his wife, what have you to say to that?"

Hattie blushed violently for a minute; her little foot played with the rug on the floor, then looking up archly, first at her father and next to the young doctor who had meantime uttered no word, she said:

"You say, father, when I was sick all the other doctors gave me up and assured me nothing but death."

"Yes, my daughter."

"And Doctor ——— took my case under those circumstances, told you he would save me, and nursed me back to health and life?"

"Then, father, it strikes me that if I was an auditing committee and had to pass upon this bill, I'd argue that the one who brought me back to my health from apparent death would be pretty well entitled to something, wouldn't he?"

The wedding will be duly celebrated in a very short time.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean.*

## QUEER NATIONS.

What the Chinese Believe Concerning Immortality.

A writer in a recent issue of the *North China Herald* discusses the early Chinese notions of immortality. In the most ancient times ancestral worship was maintained on the ground that the souls of the dead exist after this life. The present is a part only of human existence, and men continue to be after death what they have become before it. Hence the honors accorded to men of rank in their lifetime were thought to be due to them after death. The earliest utterances of Chinese National thought on this subject we find that duality which has remained the prominent feature in Chinese thinking ever since. The present life is light; the future is darkness. What the shadow is to the substance, the soul is to the body; what vapor is to water, breath is to man. By the process of cooling steam may again become water, and the transformation of animals teach us that beings inferior to man may live after death. Ancient Chinese, then, believed that as there is a male and female principle in all nature, a day and a night is inseparable from each thing in the universe as the universe itself, so it is in the vicissitudes of religious ideas, men came to believe more definitely in the possibility of communications with supernatural beings.

In the beginning of the Christian era it was a distinct belief that the thoughts of the sages were to them a revelation from above. The 'Book of Odes' frequently uses the expression "God spoke to them," and one sage is represented after death "moving up and down in the presence of God in Heaven." A few centuries subsequently we find for the first time great men transferred in the popular imagination to the sky, it being believed that their souls took up their abode in certain constellations. This was due to the fact that the ideas of immortality had taken a new shape, and that the philosophy of the times regarded the stars of Heaven as the pure essences of the grosser things belonging to this world. The pure is heaven-

ly and the gross earthly, and therefore that which is purest on earth ascends to the regions of the stars. At the same time hermits and other ascetics began to be credited with the power of acquiring extraordinary longevity, and the stork became the animal which the Immortals preferred to ride above all others. The idea of plants which confer immunity from death soon sprang up. The fungus known as Polyporus lucidus was taken to be the most efficacious of all plants in guarding man from death, and 3,000 ounces of silver have been asked for a single specimen. Its red color was caused by the circumstances which gave it its reputation, for at this time the five colors of Babylonian astrology had been accepted as indications of good and evil fortune. This connection of a red color with the notion of immortality through the medium of good and bad luck led to the adoption of cinnabar as the philosopher's stone, and thus to the construction of the whole system of alchemy. The plant of immortality is spoken of in ancient Chinese literature as existing a century before the mineral. In correspondence with the tree of life in Eden there was probably a Babylonian tradition which found its way to China shortly before Chinese writers mention the plant of immortality. The Chinese, not being navigators, must have got their ideas of the ocean which surrounds the world from those who were, and when they received a cosmography they would receive it with its legends.—*Nature.*

## A THREE DOLLAR DOWRY.

An Unsuccessful Town in Ruins.—The Jolly Fishermen of China.

We found the island inhabited by two foreigners of the light-house staff, 300 Chinese and 1,000 goats. The island is a mass of rock, in three ridges converging near the center of the island, and there is only a thin layer of earth over the rocks, sufficient to grow a crop of grass for the goats. Here and there on the slopes of the hills there are small patches of cultivation. The permanent residents of the island, the 300 Chinese and 1,000 goats, perhaps make to eke out a subsistence from the fruits of the earth; but the island is chiefly noted for the jelly-fish trade carried on in the spring, and during that season thousands of Chinese come from Ningpo and also from adjacent islands and take up their temporary abode on the North Saddle. This explains how there are so many houses in ruins all over the island, and why the North Saddle house is not of much account, and the ruins left by the jolly jelly-fishermen are simply bamboo frames; a few square yards of matting thrown over the frame work will put the house into good order again. There are no walls or furniture, and the only cooking frame and nothing more. The houses are perched in clefts of the rocks, and there is not much room for the children to run about. A large number of sampans were lying up and down the shore, and the jolly fishermen were simply bamboo frames; a few square yards of matting thrown over the frame work will put the house into good order again. There are no walls or furniture, and the only cooking frame and nothing more. The houses are perched in clefts of the rocks, and there is not much room for the children to run about. 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